

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 249931 TOSEC 160147

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PGOV, SP

SUBJECT:BRIEFING MEMO: CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR DEATH OF
FRANCO

FOR THE SECRETARY THROUGH SISCO FROM HARTMAN

1. YOU HAVE SEEN THE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF FRANCO'S DEATH. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE FULLY PREPARED FOR THIS EVENT, WE ARE REVIEWING AND UP-DATING THE APPROVED CONTINGENCY PLANS. AS OF TRANSMISSION TIME, NEWS IS STILL UNCONFIRMED.

2. THE PLANNED COURSE OF EVENTS-- WHICH WE EXPECT TO TAKE PLACE WITHOUT MAJOR CHANGE -- IS THAT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FRANCO'S DEATH OR INCAPACITATION THE THREE-MAN REGENCY COUNCIL, HEADED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CORTES, WOULD TAKE POWER IN THE NAME OF THE PRINCE. WITHIN EIGHT DAYS, THE FUNERAL WOULD BE HELD AND JUAN CARLOS WOULD BE SWORN IN AS CHIEF OF STATE. WE ASSUME THAT THE FUNERAL, RATHER THAN THE SWEARING IN, WOULD BE THE MAJOR CEREMONIAL EVENT, WITH A CORONATION CEREMONY DEFERRED AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE PERIOD OF MOURNING.

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3. ALTHOUGH THE TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF POWER TO JUAN CARLOS LAST SUMMER WAS A REHEARSAL, THE SUCCESSION MECHANISM HAS

NOT REALLY BEEN TESTED AND THE OUTCOME IS UNCERTAIN. WE WOULD EXPECT ARIAS TO REMAIN AS PRIME MINISTER AT LEAST DURING THE IMMEDIATE SUCCESSION PHASE BUT HIS TENURE THEREAFTER IS PROBLEMATIC. IT IS ALSO UNCLEAR HOW MAJOR DECISIONS WILL IN FACT BE MADE, GIVEN THE OVERLAPPING ROLES OF THE PRINCE, THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE 17 MEMBER COUNCIL OF THE REALM. AS NOTED BELOW, WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING OUR OPTIONS DURING THIS FIRST PHASE BUT NO SPECIFIC DECISIONS SEEM CALLED FOR AS YET.

OUR PREPARATIONS NOW STAND AS FOLLOWS:

1. CONDOLENCE MESSAGES:

-- MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT TO FRANCO'S WIDOW, PRIME

MINISTER ARIAS AND THE PRINCE ARE READY. (SEPTEL)

-- A MESSAGE FROM YOU TO CORTINA IS ALSO READY. (SEPTEL)

2. STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY:

-- A DRAFT PUBLIC STATEMENT FOR USE BY THE PRESIDENT IS READY (TAB 1).

-- A DRAFT STATEMENT FOR YOUR USE IS ALSO READY (TAB 2).

3. FUNERAL DELEGATION:

OUR CONTINGENCY PLANNING CALLS FOR THE DECISION ON US REPRESENTATION AT THE FUNERAL TO BE MADE WHEN THE SPANISH HAVE FIRMED UP THEIR PLANS AND WHEN WE KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF OTHER MAJOR GOVERNMENTS IN THIS REGARD. OUR THINKING HAS BEEN THAT THE MOST SUITABLE FIGURE TO LEAD THE US DELEGATION WOULD BE THE VICE PRESIDENT. THIS IS BASED IN PART ON THE PRECEDENTS OF THE SPANISH REPRESENTATIVES AT THE 1963 KENNEDY FUNERAL AND VICE PRESIDENT FORD'S ATTENDANCE AT THE 1973 FUNERAL FOR PRIME MINISTER CARRERO BLANCO. ALTERNATIVELY, THE US COULD BE REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OR SOMEONE OF CABINET RANK, BUT EITHER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO DOWNPLAY THE EVENT AND SEEN AS SUCH BY THE SPANISH.

4. BILATERAL RELATIONS:

WE HAVE PREPARED A DRAFT REVISION OF THE SUBSTANTIVE PART

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OF THE EXISTING CONTINGENCY PLAN DEALING WITHOUT TREATMENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE IMMEDIATE TRANSITION PERIOD. WE ARE LOOKING NOW AT WHETHER AND HOW WE AND PERHAPS OUR KEY EUROPEAN ALLIES MIGHT BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE THE KIND INTO THE ATLANTIC FRAMEWORK.

5. BASE NEGOTIATIONS:

MCCLOSKEY HAS PRESENTED CORTINA WITH OUR DRAFTS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENTS; CORTINA SAID HE WOULD NEED SOME MORE TIME TO COMPLETE THE NECESSARY WORK ON HIS SIDE. FRANCO'S DEATH WOULD MOST PROBABLY DELAY THIS PROCESS

AND COULD EVEN LEAD TO PROTRACTED DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES YET UNRESOLVED. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO PRESENT REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD DISAVOW THE FRAMEWORK AGREED BY YOU AND CORTINA. THERE COULD EVEN BE ADVANTAGES IF THERE WERE A NEW GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME THE PACKAGE WAS BEING ACTED UPON BY CONGRESS. NO SPECIAL CONTINGENCY PREPARATIONS SEEM REQUIRED AT PRESENT.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT (TAB 1)

I HAVE JUST LEARNED WITH SORROW OF THE DEATH OF GENERALISIMO FRANCISCO FRANCO, WHO LED HIS COUNTRY FOR OVER THREE DECADES DURING A SIGNIFICANT ERA IN SPANISH HISTORY. ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, I WISH TO EXPRESS THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE WIDOW OF GENERALISIMO FRANCO, DONA CARMEN POLO DE FRANCO, TO PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SPAIN. I KNOW THAT GENERALISIMO FRANCO'S LOSS WILL BE DEEPLY FELT THROUGHOUT SPAIN. WE WISH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WELL IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS PART WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH HAS FORMED THE TOUCHSTONE FOR THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY (TAB 2)

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THE DEATH OF GENERALISIMO FRANCISCO FRANCO BRINGS TO AN END A MOMENTOUS PERIOD IN SPANISH HISTORY. SPAIN HAS LOST A LEADER WHOSE DEATH WILL BE DEEPLY MOURNED BY HIS COUNTRYMEN. I OFFER MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE WIDOW AND FAMILY OF THE CHIEF OF STATE, TO PRINCE JUAN CARLOS AND TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE. INGERSOLL

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